

Authority Background

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers
Military Intelligence Section, General Staff

12 December 1945

Memo for General Willoughby

SUBJECT: Shipping Advices of WDC(Adv)

1. Japanese Documents collected, screened and transmitted to Washington by WDC(Adv) as indicated in the attached shipping advices are only collated with the pure document targets listed in the W.D. Target Folders. WDC(Adv) has assumed responsibility for all document targets.

2. Granted that Japanese Documents being transmitted to Washington may be the complete answer to other Target numbers, due to the obvious language difficulties and time involved in such translation, Washington does not want documents for this purpose. What they want for such targets is reports in English prepared by special investigators who are on the spot. Japanese Documents may be used by these specialists to support their reports. Except for the stated document targets, all targets in the War Dept Target books were based on Washington's desire to receive reports in English written by specialist investigators. Japanese documents are completely another proposition. This has been clearly indicated in Col. Smith's instructions as WDICC representative, a copy of which has been furnished your office.

3. The theater needs as to documents are satisfied by the procedure of allowing theater agencies to scan and requisition documents listed on the shipping advices during a two week retention period. All documents are located at the Tokyo Arsenal where they may be scanned. In a good many instances theater agencies have been the document collectors themselves and are merely using WDC(Adv) as the channel whereby documents reach Washington. By publishing a shipping advice on such documents, however, other agencies still have a chance to scan the document before it is transmitted from the theater. In this connection, the future shipping advices will have more detailed descriptions of the listed documents.

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